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## Correspondence

## Reply to “Need for an up to date and comprehensive risk factor analysis to determine the lifetime risk of uterine corpus cancer in Taiwan women”



Dear Editor,

We thank Wijayabahu AT for her comments on our article [1]. Our study was based on the Taiwan Cancer Registry (TCR), which was established by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in 1979 to estimate cancer incidence among all civilian residents in Taiwan. TCR is an online, publicly accessible aggregate dataset, which collects newly diagnosed cases of cancer on an annual basis. Although we understand Wijayabahu's concern regarding the need to include the most current data (2011–2016), the most updated TCR annual report was released for the year 2012 at the time of our submission on 28 August 2015 and acceptance on 18 September 2015 [2]. To avoid comparing the change in incidence and the lifetime risk of uterine corpus cancer over different-length intervals, population-based data on uterine corpus cancer incidence were compared using 5-year intervals from 1991 to 2010.

We agree with Wijayabahu that the retrospective analysis of risk factors associated with the uterine corpus cancer among Taiwanese women would definitely be more informative to our readers. Unfortunately, being an on-line, publicly accessible aggregate dataset, TCR does not contain any information on the changes in lifestyle and practice. To our understanding, a population-based dataset that allows the examination of changing lifestyle and practices does not exist in any countries for any ethnic groups. Alternatively, a nationwide self-reported questionnaire survey might potentially be possible to investigate the risk factors associated with uterine corpus cancer among Taiwanese women, but such analysis is beyond the scope of this study.

We concur with Wijayabahu's opinion that a proper standard population is critical for direct age-standardization. Since the Taiwanese population is much younger than most developed countries, including the United States [3], standardization using the 2000 World Standard Population would yield lower age-standardized incidence rates of uterine corpus cancer. Despite the lack of an appropriate standard population that reflects the age distribution similar to that of the Taiwanese population, the standardized rates using 2000 World Standard Population are still required to make international comparisons more meaningful.

## References

- [1] Lai JC-Y, Weng C-S, Huang S-M, Huang N, Chou Y-J, Wang C-C, et al. Incidence and lifetime risk of uterine corpus cancer in Taiwanese women from 1991 to 2010. *Taiwan J Obstet Gynecol* 2017;56:68–72.
- [2] Taiwan cancer registry. 2015 [cited 2015 July 27]; Available from: <http://crs.cph.ntu.edu.tw>.
- [3] Hsu HC, Jones BL. Multiple trajectories of successful aging of older and younger cohorts. *Gerontologist* 2012;52:843–56.

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